

Admiral Timme's awards include the Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and several unit and service awards.

The Department of the Navy, the Congress, and the American people have been well served by this dedicated naval officer. Admiral Timme's professionalism, superior technical and managerial expertise and determination to support the Fleet are unrivaled. He has been instrumental in ensuring that the U.S. Submarine force is, and will remain, the world's most preeminent in the 21st century. He leaves an enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to express appreciation to Admiral Timme for his outstanding service to the nation. I also want to recognize and thank his wife Suzette and his daughters Savannah and Morgan for their loyalty and support. No one in our armed services can do their job without the love and understanding of their loved ones. They have shared equally in all of Admiral Timme's success. On behalf of the citizens of Virginia's 8th district, I would like to thank Admiral Timme for his steadfast service to his country over his illustrious 28-year career and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas in his retirement.

GERALD W. HEANEY FEDERAL
BUILDING AND UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE AND CUSTOM-
HOUSE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill to name the Federal building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth, Minnesota, in honor of Judge Gerald W. Heaney. Judge Heaney was appointed Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit on November 3, 1966. After 40 years of distinguished judicial service, Judge Heaney retired on August 31, 2006.

Judge Heaney was born on January 29, 1918, in Goodhue, a rural community in the southeastern part of Minnesota. As a child growing up in a farming community, Judge Heaney learned the value of a close family, honesty, and hard work. These qualities have marked not only his personal life but also his life as a public servant. He was educated at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1941.

Gerry Heaney is a decorated World War II veteran. He was a member of the distinguished Army Ranger Battalion and participated in the historic D-Day landing at Normandy. He was awarded the Silver Star for extraordinary bravery in the battle of La Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France. He also received a Bronze Star and five battle stars.

At the end of the war, Judge Heaney returned home and entered private practice in Duluth. During that time he was instrumental in improving the state education system, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. He was instrumental in helping the Duluth school system develop a

payroll system that equalized the pay for both men and women.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Heaney to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. In that capacity, Judge Heaney has been a champion of protecting the rights of the disadvantaged. He is devoted to making sure that every person has an equal opportunity for an education, a job, and a home. He firmly believes the poor, the less educated, and less advantaged deserve the protections provided by the United States Constitution.

As a hard working, well-prepared, and fair-minded jurist, Judge Heaney left his legal imprimatur on school desegregation cases, bankruptcy law, prisoner treatment, and social security law.

His public service is discerned by industry, brilliance, and scholarly excellence. His compassion and dedication to our most disadvantaged are unparalleled.

It is fitting and proper for Congress to designate the Duluth, Minnesota Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in honor of Judge Gerald W. Heaney.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

DUTCH AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today, on Dutch American Heritage Day, I rise to recognize the history of warm relations the Dutch and American people have shared for over 400 years and also to celebrate the many contributions of Dutch Americans to U.S. history. Americans of Dutch descent include Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt, whose courage and strength helped lead the American people through difficult times in our Nation's past. Their ranks also include President Martin Van Buren, Walt Whitman, and Thomas Edison—and Senator Arthur Vandenberg who helped shape U.S. foreign policy after World War II.

The Dutch were deeply involved in the exploration of the New World and the settlement of the early colonies. In 1609, while searching for an easy route to Asia, Captain Henry Hudson discovered the river that bears his name. Soon after, Dutch settlements began springing up throughout and beyond modern-day New York State into what is now Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Today, Americans of Dutch descent live in concentrations in Michigan, California, Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Ohio, and Illinois.

The ties between the United States and the Netherlands date back to the earliest days of the Republic. It was the Dutch who first recognized the United States of America and The Hague was home to the first American embassy in the world. The American people will not soon forget how on November 16, 1776, as the American warship, *Andrew Doria*, entered the harbor of the Dutch island of St. Eustatius in the West Indies, the fort fired a salute, recognizing the flag of the United States of America—the first of such acts by any country. This salute heralded the begin-

ning of a relationship that would persist, unbroken, for three centuries.

Today we also celebrate the people of the Netherlands who have stood beside us in good and bad times since the War of Independence. The Dutch granted the U.S. Congress its first loan, helping to sustain a struggling Nation at one of its lowest points; in the wake of Pearl Harbor, the Dutch were among the first nations to align themselves with the U.S. and they fought proudly with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in the occupied Netherlands during the Second World War. Today, the Dutch stand by us still in the ranks of NATO and among our troops in the ongoing efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan.

Dutch American Heritage Day is a special day not only because it celebrates the heritage and contribution of Americans of Dutch descent but because the day is also a celebration of a friendship that has helped shape and sustain our Nation from the days of its infancy. We are thankful to the people of the Netherlands and we look forward to continued strong ties and goodwill for years to come.

HONORING EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 23, I attended the funeral services for Army Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, an outstanding young officer who gave her life in service to her country while patrolling near Najaf, in southern Iraq, on September 12th of this year.

Emily J.T. Perez was a 23-year-old woman of great determination and distinction from Prince George's County, Maryland, who rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. Seeing her tremendous potential, I had the honor of nominating her for an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Emily rose to the top of her class to become the first minority female Command Sergeant in West Point's history.

With sadness I acknowledge her for another distinction; she is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq. Lt. Perez, a platoon leader assigned to the 20th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, perished when an improvised roadside device exploded underneath her Humvee.

Emily Perez was a young woman of many talents, with a passion to serve others. Born in Heidelberg, Germany to a military family, she decided early on that she wanted to be a soldier. Her family moved to Fort Washington, Maryland, and Emily enrolled at Oxon Hill High School and became Wing Commander of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. At Peace Baptist Church in the District of Columbia, she started an HIV-AIDS ministry to educate young people on the dangers of the life-threatening disease. She also volunteered with the Red Cross at an HIV-AIDS peer education center where she shared stories of those living with depression and the stigma of AIDS.

Emily was a sprinter. She ran the third leg for the Army's 400-meter relay team and "She